



TESTIMONY
of the
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
to the
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

March 7, 2011

CCM is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 90% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony to you on issues of concern to towns and cities.

Raised Bill 6499 "An Act Concerning Minor Revisions to the Education Statutes" would provide a number of positive changes in education law for local governments. Among other things,

- **Section 5** would require that arbitrators file a copy of their decision with the legislative body of a school district, along with the local board of education. The legislative body has the fiscal responsibility for the whole municipality and should be included in the dissemination of any information involving local finances.
- **Section 12** would allow certain reporting made by local boards of education to the state be done every three years, rather than every 2 years, thus providing some administrative relief.
- **Section 16** would provide some education mandates relief by allowing local and regional boards of education an additional month to provide notification to their non-tenured teachers that their contracts will not be renewed for the following school year.

These proposals would be a start in reducing the many administrative mandates placed on boards of education and paid for by property taxpayers, along with providing more timely information to the local governing body.

Attached to this testimony are lists of education-related mandates compiled by the towns of Bristol and Monroe. As we enter a period of even greater budgetary constraints **CCM urges the committee to carefully consider repealing and/or postponing additional education mandates, except those required by court order or federal law.**

CCM **urges support of education mandates relief** for local governments.

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If you have any questions Kachina Walsh-Weaver, CCM Senior Legislative Associate,
at kweaver@ccm-ct.org or (203) 710-9525.